

the NATO peacekeepers will have to be in Kosovo, including the American forces?

**The President.** I don't think we should put a timetable on it. We will define our objectives and proceed to implement them.

### **Serbian Leadership**

**Q.** Can you see the NATO peacekeeping force leaving Kosovo with Mr. Milosevic still in power?

**The President.** Well, I would put it in a different way. What I would like to see is all the nations of southeastern Europe built up. I'd like to see them coming closer together, and then I'd like to see them becoming more integrated with the economic and security structure of Europe, so that we will see them growing and prospering the way Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic did after the fall of communism, for example. And I don't see how Serbia can participate in that unless they have a leadership that is committed to a multiethnic, multireligious democracy and to genuine democracy and human rights.

### **Success of Airstrikes**

**Q.** Do you feel vindicated against the criticism that the air war would not work, sir?

**The President.** Well, I think—again, I would say, I think that our people in uniform performed superbly, and they performed risking their lives. We regret the fact that there were any civilian casualties, but our pilots risked their lives to minimize those casualties. And there were far fewer here, for example, than there were in the Gulf war—far, far fewer.

And I think it's a tribute to Secretary Cohen and to General Shelton and the others who believed that, given these facts—given these facts—and given the capacity of our forces, that this strategy could work. We never took other options off the table; we had planned and thought about them. But I think that our people in uniform, starting with our Secretary of Defense, are the ones that have been vindicated by this. And I'm grateful for what they have achieved.

But in terms of America, the United States should feel vindicated when the people go home and when they're safe and when we can say that we, as a nation, have played a role in reversing ethnic cleansing. Because if we do that, after what we have done in Bosnia and the work we have been doing in Africa to set up a crisis response team to try to prevent a Rwanda from ever occurring again, then we will be able to see the world go into the 21st century with a more humane future, not able to stop all conflict, not able to stop all ethnic conflict, but at last able to prevent this sort of thing.

### **Serbian Willingness To Reach Agreement**

**Q.** Why do you think he gave in now, Mr. President?

**Q.** Apart from the air campaign, was it also the indictment as a war criminal; was he getting pressure from his own people, from his military?

**The President.** They paid quite a high price for this; they were hurt very badly.

### **Reconstruction of the Balkans**

**Q.** Mr. President, sir, it's going to cost a lot of money to reconstruct Kosovo and also the neighboring countries are going to need a lot of aid. How much is the United States willing to put up, and will this be a European endeavor with help from the United States?

**The President.** Well, as I said, I would expect that most of the money would come from Europe because most of the costs of this campaign, the air campaign, have been borne by the United States. I don't quarrel with that. We had the capacity, and we did what we should have done.

But I don't want us to get into a haggling situation, either. We should do this because it's the right thing to do. And it will be—let me say this, it will be far less expensive—far, far less expensive—for us to make a decent contribution to the long-term development of these people than it will be to wait around for something like this to happen again and run the risks, all the risks we had to deal with this time that it might spread and all of that.

So I hope that we will be forthright. I hope the international institutions will do their part. And I think we need to focus on this because this is the last big challenge.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to NATO Secretary General Javier Solana; Gen. Wesley K. Clark, USA, Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Jacques Chirac of France; Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany; Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; Prime Minister Wim Kok of The Netherlands; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland; former Prime Minister and Special Envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia; and President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The President also referred to the Military Technical Agreement Between the International Security Force (KFOR) and the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia.

### **Remarks Honoring the 1998 World Series Champion New York Yankees** *June 10, 1999*

I'm up—and we're not rained out yet. *[Laughter]*

Let me say to all of you how delighted I am to see Joe and George and the entire team here. As you might imagine, this has been a very happy day at the White House, because of the peace agreement in Kosovo. And it's a happy day in New York. One of our friends, who has a business in the Bronx, came through today and said that a lot of his customers are Albanians who have relatives and friends who will be able to go home now.

And I think, if you look at the composition of the Yankee team behind us, and you look at the composition of the city and State they represent, the United States should be proud that at this moment in our history we were able to stand against the proposition that any people should be killed or uprooted or abused because of their race, their ethnic

heritage, or their religious faith. It's a good day for America.

I also want to thank David Cone for coming up here and making this presentation. I understand that he got his first hit in several years last night—*[laughter]*—and I feel like that some days around here. *[Laughter]* So, congratulations. It's never too late to start making hits.

I also was glad to hear the spirit of the team, that we're not going to come down here in second place; but for all of us who are genuine baseball fans, it's nice to see that the Yankees are at least getting a little competition this year—*[laughter]*—but still winning and doing very well, thank you.

You know, last year was a season—for those of us who've loved baseball all our lives—that clearly, irrevocably restored baseball as America's pastime. And once again, the Bronx Bombers—heavy emphasis on Bronx, for Congressman Rangel and others—*[laughter]*—proved themselves to be America's greatest team.

You know, this was a team that reminded a lot of people of the Yankees that made the Yankees America's team—of Ruth and Gehrig, of Mantle and Maris, of DiMaggio, who threw out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium in the last season.

And for lifetime baseball fans, I can't help saying a word, since he's passed away, that I'm awful glad that he was able to see one last championship season for the Yankees. You know, Yogi Berra said a lot of interesting things. I've tried to commit a lot of them to memory, and they always get a laugh, and I won't bother you with any of them today, except he said one thing that I think is worth repeating, because I think it is the motto of this team and it reflects the spirit that I hope we have when we come to work here every day.

He said, "You give 100 percent in the first half of the game, and if that isn't enough, in the second half, you give what's left." *[Laughter]* Well, last year, that's what the Yankees did all year long: more victories in a year than any other team in Major League history, 125. I understand that even George

Steinbrenner was impressed. [Laughter] Although I think he still wants to know what happened to the other 50 games. [Laughter] Joe Torre inspired America with his leadership, his character, and his comeback. But I can tell you, after having been President now for 6½ years, the leader can't win without good players.

I was glad to see Donna Shalala acknowledge Mr. Steinbrenner, and now I know where she got her grit. We all remember the clutch hits of Paul O'Neill and Derek Jeter. You remember David's 20 wins; Bernie Williams' battle—title, captured in the very last day of the season; Tino Martinez's game-winning grand slam home run in the first game of the World Series; and of course, World Series MVP Scott Brosius' two homers, six RBI's, and steady defense in the four-game series. [Laughter]

Now, I don't know how long America will have to wait for another baseball season where two guys hit over 60 home runs, but the New York Yankees defied every conventional wisdom about what a professional baseball team could achieve in a highly competitive league, with more and more teams and more and more talented players.

But again, I say to all of you, all Americans—Yankee fans, and even the couple of guys in the press who waved their hands when I said it was a good thing there was a little more competition this season—everybody who's loved baseball from childhood will never forget that Yankee team, and what it did to clearly, clearly make baseball our national pastime, and remind us that New York Yankees are America's team.

Thank you, and God bless you. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 5:45 p.m. in the South Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Joe Torre, manager, and George M. Steinbrenner III, owner, New York Yankees, and 1998 team members David Cone, Paul O'Neill, Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, Tino Martinez, and Scott Brosius. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

## **Memorandum on Reports to the Congress on the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions**

*June 10, 1999*

### *Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Delegation of Responsibility Under the Senate Resolution of Advice and Consent to Ratification of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the responsibility of the President, under the July 31, 1998, Senate resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, to submit annual reports to the Congress relating to enforcement and monitoring of that Convention.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

## **Address to the Nation on the Military Technical Agreement on Kosovo**

*June 10, 1999*

My fellow Americans, tonight for the first time in 79 days, the skies over Yugoslavia are silent. The Serb army and police are withdrawing from Kosovo. The one million men, women, and children driven from their land are preparing to return home. The demands of an outraged and united international community have been met.

I can report to the American people that we have achieved a victory for a safer world, for our democratic values, and for a stronger America. Our pilots have returned to base.

The airstrikes have been suspended. Aggression against an innocent people has been contained and is being turned back.

When I ordered our Armed Forces into combat, we had three clear goals: to enable the Kosovar people, the victims of some of the most vicious atrocities in Europe since the Second World War, to return to their homes with safety and self-government; to require Serbian forces responsible for those atrocities to leave Kosovo; and to deploy an international security force, with NATO at its core, to protect all the people of that troubled land, Serbs and Albanians, alike. Those goals will be achieved. A necessary conflict has been brought to a just and honorable conclusion.

The result will be security and dignity for the people of Kosovo, achieved by an alliance that stood together in purpose and resolve, assisted by the diplomatic efforts of Russia. This victory brings a new hope that when a people are singled out for destruction because of their heritage and religious faith and we can do something about it, the world will not look the other way.

I want to express my profound gratitude to the men and women of our Armed Forces and those of our Allies. Day after day, night after night, they flew, risking their lives to attack their targets and to avoid civilian casualties when they were fired upon from populated areas. I ask every American to join me in saying to them, thank you, you've made us very proud.

I'm also grateful to the American people for standing against the awful ethnic cleansing, for sending generous assistance to the refugees, and for opening your hearts and your homes to the innocent victims who came here.

I want to speak with you for a few moments tonight about why we fought, what we achieved, and what we have to do now to advance the peace, and together with the people of the Balkans, forge a future of freedom, progress, and harmony.

We should remember that the violence we responded to in Kosovo was the culmination of a 10-year campaign by Slobodan Milosevic, the leader of Serbia, to exploit ethnic and religious differences in order to impose his will on the lands of the former Yugo-

slavia. That's what he tried to do in Croatia and in Bosnia, and now in Kosovo. The world saw the terrifying consequences: 500 villages burned; men of all ages separated from their loved ones to be shot and buried in mass graves; women raped; children made to watch their parents die; a whole people forced to abandon, in hours, communities their families had spent generations building.

For these atrocities, Mr. Milosevic and his top aides have been indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity. I will never forget the Kosovar refugees I recently met. Some of them could barely talk about what they had been through. All they had left was hope that the world would not turn its back.

When our diplomatic efforts to avert this horror were rebuffed and the violence mounted, we and our Allies chose to act. Mr. Milosevic continued to do terrible things to the people of Kosovo, but we were determined to turn him back. Our firmness finally has brought an end to a vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing, and we acted early enough to reverse it, to enable the Kosovars to go home.

When they do, they will be safe. They will be able to reopen their schools, speak their language, practice their religion, choose their leaders, and shape their destiny. There'll be no more days of foraging for food in the cold of mountains and forests, no more nights of hiding in cellars, wondering if the next day will bring death or deliverance. They will know that Mr. Milosevic's army and paramilitary forces will be gone, his 10-year campaign of repression finished.

NATO has achieved this success as a united alliance, ably led by Secretary General Solana and General Clark. Nineteen democracies came together and stayed together through the stiffest military challenge in NATO's 50-year history.

We also preserved our critically important partnership with Russia, thanks to President Yeltsin, who opposed our military effort but supported diplomacy to end the conflict on terms that met our conditions. I'm grateful to Russian envoy Chernomyrdin and Finnish President Ahtisaari for their work, and to Vice President Gore for the key role he played in putting their partnership together.